खाद्यान्नों का आयात

1254. **प्रो० रामबख्श सिंह वर्मा:** क्या **वाणिज्य** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) 1997-98 के दौरान किन-किन खाद्यान्नों का आयात किया गया था;

(ख) उनका देश-वार तथा खाद्यान्न-वार ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ग) खाद्यान्नों का आयात किए जाने के क्या कारण हैं; और

(घ) क्या सरकार वर्ष 1999-2000 के दौरान खाद्यान्नों का आयात करने पर विचार कर रही है?

वाणिज्य मंत्री (श्री रामकृष्ण हेगड़े): (क) और (ख) वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान सरकारी खाते से किया गया गेहूं का आयात निम्नानुसार था:—

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वर्ष 1997-98 के दौरान चावल का कोई आयात नहीं किया गया है।

(ग) देश में गेहूं के कम उत्पादन और देश में उसकी उपलब्धता को बढ़ाने के कारण।

(घ) केन्द्रीय पूल में खाद्यान्नों (गेहूं और चावल) की स्टॉक संबंधी स्थिति संतोषजनक है और वर्ष 1999-2000 के दौरान खाद्यान्नों (गेहूं और चावल) का आयात करने के बारे में इस समय कोई प्रस्ताव नहीं है।

Re-Constitution of Board of Trade

1255. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have re-constituted the high-level Board of Trade;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the names of the members of the re-constituted Board?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir. The Board of Trade has been reconstituted w.e.f. 5th February, 1999.

(b) The Board of Trade has been reconstituted with a view to giving winder representation to a cross section of Trade and Industry, economists and media so that the Board could provide an effective mechanism for ensuring continuous dialogue for evolving strategies for boosting our export-import trade.

(c) The names of members of the reconstituted Board of Trade are given in annexure. *[See Appendix 186, Annexure No. 21]*

Misuse of Advance Licence Scheme

1256. SHRI VAYALAR RAVI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that Advance Licence Scheme has been misused and the exporters are not complying with the export obligations; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard, alongwith the action taken against exporters and the steps taken to realise the amount on default?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) Yes Sir. The Government is aware of cases where a number of exporters have been found to have misused the advance licensing scheme and have not fulfilled their export obligation within the period allowed to them.

(b) Licence-wise details of export obligation fulfilled is maintained by the concerned liscensing offices. In cases of default in the fulfilment of export obligation, the licencee is required to pay the Customs duty alongwith interest @ 24% per annum on the unutilised duty free imported material besides surrendering of the Special Import Licences of appropriate value. In cases where such default is not regularised in the manner above, appropriate penal action is taken under the provisions of the Foreign Trade (Development & Regulations) Act, 1992 or the Import &